

**Board of Veterans Services
Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2014**

A meeting of the Board of Veterans Services (BVS) was held on Tuesday, October 7, 2014 at the Sitter and Barfoot Veterans Care Center, 1601 Broad Rock Blvd., Richmond.

Members Present

- Richard Anderson
- L. Max Beyer
- William Haneke
- Susan Hippen
- James Icenhour
- Johnny Johnson
- Thad Jones
- Donald Kaiserman
- Don Lecky
- Sandra Love
- William Nicholas
- Toddy Puller
- Bryce Reeves
- Christopher Stolle
- Jack Hilgers, representing the Veterans Services Foundation (VSF)
- Steven Combs, representing the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations (JLC)
- Cathy Wilson, Deputy Commissioner, representing the Department of Veterans Services (DVS)

Members Absent

- Mamye BaCote
- Belinda Pinckney

Commonwealth of Virginia Officials Present

- Cindy Norwood, Office of the Attorney General
- Rushawna Senior, Office of the Governor
- John Newby, Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Leslie Frazier, Office of the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs
- Brian Pickral, Department of Veterans Services (DVS)
- Sandra Ranicki, DVS
- Bill Van Thiel, DVS
- Danielle Weaver, DVS
- Carrie Ann Alford, Legislative Assistant to Senator Puller

Materials Distributed as part of the Agenda Packet

- Agenda
- Veterans Care Centers (Agenda Item IV)
 - Care Center graphic
- New Business (Agenda Item V)
 - BVS 2015 Action Plan
 - BVS Committee Assignments

Call to Order

Chairman Don Kaiserman welcomed the BVS members and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

Mr. William Haneke led the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called and with 15 of 19 members present a quorum was determined. Delegate Richard Anderson and Senator Toddy Puller joined the meeting at 10:20 a.m., bringing the number of members present to 17, including Mr. Steven Combs representing the JLC, Mr. Jack Hilgers representing the VSF, and Deputy Commissioner Cathy Wilson representing DVS.

Chairman Kaiserman asked Mr. Combs to briefly introduce the state officials and guests present. Their names and organizations are recorded above.

Approval of Agenda

Chairman Kaiserman asked for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Johnny Johnson made a **motion, seconded** by Ms. Susan Hippen, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried **unanimously**. The approved agenda is included as Attachment 1.

Approval of July 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes

Chairman Kaiserman noted that the July 22, 2014 meeting minutes had been distributed electronically and could also be found on the DVS website. He asked for a motion to approve the July 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. James Icenhour made a **motion, seconded** by Mr. L. Max Beyer, to approve the July 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes as presented.

Delegate Christopher Stolle asked for a change to the July 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes on Page 3, under *Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of Officers*. He asked that the third bullet be changed to read: “*Ms. Hippen had been nominated for the position of BVS Secretary.*”

Mr. Icenhour withdrew his earlier motion and made a new **motion, seconded** by Mr. Beyer, that the July 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes be approved with the change requested by Delegate Stolle. The motion carried **unanimously**.

Reports

Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations

Mr. Combs gave the JLC report in the absence of JLC Chairman Chip Moran. He noted that because the JLC had not met since the last BVS meeting, the JLC report from the July 22, 2014 BVS meeting remained unchanged. He added that the next JLC meeting is scheduled for October 15.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Mr. Combs for his report.

Veteran Services Foundation

Mr. Hilgers gave the VSF report in the absence of VSF Chairman Rich Schollmann. Mr. Hilgers explained that the VSF met on August 6 and that the 4Q FY14 VSF Financial Report was approved at the meeting. Mr. Hilgers stated that one new member joined the VSF and gave a brief bio on Ms. Kathleen B. Levingston. He noted that the next VSF meeting is November 5. The VSF report is included as Attachment 2.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Mr. Hilgers for his report.

Department of Veterans Services

Deputy Commissioner Wilson delivered the DVS report. She explained that Commissioner Paul Galanti was unable to attend today's meeting. She invited the Board members to attend Commissioner Galanti's Retirement Celebration, scheduled from 5-8 p.m. today at the Virginia War Memorial.

Deputy Commissioner Wilson stated that DVS has a new Director of Benefits, Thomas Herthel, and a new Director of Human Resources, Lisa Cates. She added that Allen Fryman had been hired as the Virginia Transition Assistance Program (VTAP) Manager, that Brandi Jancaitis is the new Executive Director for the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program, and that Matt Leslie is the new Director for Housing Development for Veterans.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Deputy Commissioner Wilson for her report.

Veterans Care Centers

Tour of Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center (SBVCC)

Ms. Sandra Ranicki, SBVCC Administrator, took the Board members on a tour of the facility.

Overview of current operations and projects, Virginia Veterans Care Center (VVCC)

Mr. Bill Van Thiel, VVCC Administrator, gave a brief overview of the current operations and projects at VVCC. He explained that VVCC was operated by a private company, under contract with the state, from 1992 – 2003. The state took over direct operations in 2003. He added that VVCC has 240 beds, is very successful, and is self-sufficient. Mr. Van Thiel thanked the Board for their support of both care centers.

Mr. Don Lecky commented that both care centers are very well run and have strong leadership, and that the staff members at both facilities are very friendly.

Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia Veterans Care Centers

Mr. Combs delivered a presentation on veterans care center projects in Virginia, covering the following topics:

- Construction funding
- Application for U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) grant funding (65% of project costs)
- State funding commitment (35% of project costs)
- Annual funding certification
- VA Priority Group 1
- Number of Beds
- Legislation – 2015 General Assembly
- Rising Construction Costs
- Increased state commitment needed

The members asked several questions regarding the VA priority groups, the federal grant funding, and the increased state funding commitment.

Chairman Kaiserman thanked Mr. Combs for his report.

New Business

Approve 2015 meeting schedule and action plan

The 2015 action plan (meeting schedule) was approved as presented by **unanimous consent**. The approved action plan is included as Attachment 3.

Approve committee assignments

The updated committee assignments were approved as presented by **unanimous consent**. The approved committee assignments are included as Attachment 4.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Prepare for Next Meeting

Chairman Kaiserman stated that the next BVS meeting is scheduled for January 12, 2015.

Adjourn

Chairman Kaiserman stated that there was no further business before the Board, and the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

ATTACHMENT 1
Board of Veterans Services

Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center
1601 Broad Rock Boulevard, Richmond
October 7, 2014
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Opening, Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call and Quorum Determination, Approval of Agenda, and introduction of BVS members, DVS Staff, and Guests – *Don Kaiserman, BVS Chairman* (10:00 – 10:10)
- II. Approval of July 22, 2014 Meeting Minutes – *Don Kaiserman, BVS Chairman* (10:10 – 10:15)
- III. Reports (10:15 – 10:30)
 - a. Joint Leadership Council – *Chip Moran, JLC Chairman*
 - b. Veterans Services Foundation – *Rich Schollmann, VSF Chairman*
 - c. Department of Veterans Services – *Paul Galanti, Commissioner*
- IV. Veterans Care Centers (10:30 – 11:45)
 - a. Overview of current operations and projects, Virginia Veterans Care Center – *Bill Van Thiel, Administrator*
 - b. Overview of current operations and projects, Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center – *Sandra Ranicki, Administrator*
 - c. Tour of Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center – *Sandra Ranicki, Administrator*
 - d. Hampton Roads and Northern Virginia Veterans Care Centers – *BVS members*
 - i. Site selection
 - ii. Funding and VA Priority Groups
 - iii. Construction process (current)
 - iv. Construction process (proposed)
- V. New Business – *Don Kaiserman, BVS Chairman* (11:45 – 11:50)
 - a. Approve 2015 meeting schedule and action plan
 - b. Approve committee assignments
- VI. Public comment (11:50 – 11:55)
- VII. Prepare for Next Meeting – *Don Kaiserman, Chairman* (11:55 – 12:00)
- VIII. Adjourn (12:00)

ATTACHMENT 2

VETERANS SERVICES FOUNDATION

REPORT TO

Board of Veterans Services

October 7, 2014

The Veterans Services Foundation (VSF) Board of Trustees has held one meeting since last BVS meeting. A meeting was held on August 6, 2014 with a quorum present and the Development and Finance Committees met before the Board meeting. The following events occurred and actions taken at the meeting, in addition to the usual reports and updates on VWWP and V3.

- (1) Reviewed Foundation income, expenses, and fundraising events conducted during FY14;
- (2) Approved the 4th Quarter FY14 VSF Financial Reports;
- (3) Approved VSF FY15 Goals and Objectives;
- (4) Approved changes to VSF-DVS Joint Policies #1, 2, 3, 4, and 5;
- (5) Approved appointing new members John Lesinski to the Development Committee and Matice Wright to the Finance Committee;
- (6) Approved Brad Antle and Pat Webb as Development Committee Chair and Vice Chair; and
- (7) Approved Jack Kavanaugh and Frank Driscoll as Finance Committee Chair and Vice Chair.

As of 3 October, the Foundation has received donations during FY15 of about \$162,000, of which over \$130,000 is for VWWP. This does not include significant funds for V3; \$100,000 from Altria and \$10,000 from Dominion Resources. As always, the Foundation extends its sincere congratulations to the outstanding outreach of all DVS activities to realize this significant fundraising level. It could not have been accomplished without the dedication of all DVS personnel.

The Board has a new member appointed by the Governor in September to take James Schenck's place. She is Dr. Kathleen Levingston who is the Director of the Military Connection Center and an Associate Professor of Counseling and Human Services at Old Dominion University.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for November 5, 2014 at the Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center. Items for the next meeting may include: (1) approval of the First Quarter FY15 Financial Statement; (2) approval of the review and updates of VSF-DVS Joint Policies #6, 7, 8, 9 and 10; (3) refine a new draft policy on charitable bequests/planned giving; and (4) review VSF FY15 fundraising program and projections.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Schollmann
VSF Chairman

ATTACHMENT 3
Board of Veterans Services
2015 Action Plan
Adopted October 7, 2015

January 12

- Committee reports (including issues for full Board)
- 2015 General Assembly session:
 - Overview (dates, meetings, etc.)
 - BVS and JLC 2015 initiatives
 - Governor's introduced budget and legislative package
 - Other veterans legislation
 - General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus
- DVS operational briefing – committee chair and DVS director (TBD)
- Review and endorse the Compact with Virginia's Veterans

January – May

- Board members visit DVS facilities, meet with DVS directors and staff
- Committees review service area plans (part of strategic plan) with DVS directors
- Committee meetings: review/discuss DVS operations and identify issues to bring to full Board
- Committees research issues and prepare reports for May 12 meeting

May 12 meeting

- Review 2015 General Assembly Session: budget and legislation
- Committee reports (issues for full Board, potential initiatives for 2016 General Assembly, etc.)
- DVS operational briefings – committee chairs and DVS directors (TBD)

May – July

- Board members visit DVS facilities, meet with DVS directors
- Committee meetings: review/discuss DVS operations and identify issues to bring to full Board
- Committees research issues and prepare point papers for July 21 meeting

July 21 meeting

- Committee reports (issues for full Board, potential initiatives for 2016 General Assembly, etc.)
- Review, discuss, and approve BVS 2016 initiatives
- Review, discuss, and support JLC 2016 initiatives
- DVS operational briefings – committee chairs and DVS directors (TBD)

August 15 (NLT)

- Submit BVS 2016 initiatives to DVS for transmission to Governor
- (Tentative): BVS-JLC Veterans Roundtable with Governor McAuliffe

October 26 meeting

- Committee reports (issues for full Board, potential initiatives for 2016 General Assembly, etc.) Adopt 2016 Meeting Schedule
- Adopt 2016 Action Plan
- DVS operational briefings – committee chairs and DVS directors (TBD)
- Review DVS Strategic Plan and Compact with Virginia's Veterans

ATTACHMENT 4
Board of Veterans Services
Committee Assignment
Approved October 7, 2014

Benefits Committee

- Belinda Pinckney, Chairman
- William Nicholas, Vice Chairman
- James Icenhour
- Sandra Love

Care Centers Committee

- Don Lecky, Chairman
- Bill Haneke, Vice Chairman

Cemeteries Committee

- L. Max Beyer, Chairman
- Thad Jones, Vice Chairman

Board Members at Large

- Donald Kaiserman, BVS Chairman
- Johnny Johnson, BVS Vice Chairman
- Susan Hippen, BVS Secretary
- Richard Anderson, House of Delegates
- Mamye BaCote, House of Delegates
- Christopher Stolle, House of Delegates
- Toddy Puller, Senate of Virginia
- Bryce Reeves, Senate of Virginia
- Chip Moran, JLC Chairman
- Rich Schollmann, VSF Chairman
- Paul Galanti, DVS Commissioner